

Memorandum to the Minister re: Meeting with Mayor Drew Dilkens

Samar Khan, Cabinet Affairs and Regional Advisor

Other MINO Input:

Policy ☐ :

Issues / Comms ☐ :

Operations / Desks ☐ :

Parl Affairs ☐ :

We requested a meeting with Mayor Dilkens to check in to get his perspective of what's happening on the ground, and get his feedback on how all levels of Government can work together to find a solution to the blockades.

Current Status:

- Mayor Dilkens acknowledges that the Ambassador Bridge is one of the busiest commercial crossings for the Canadian-United States border. He mentions that just like Detroit, Windsor is the auto capital of Canada and that this blockade is just a big deal for Ontario as it is Michigan
- He's told protestors to go home "'Time to go home, we've heard your protest. We appreciate you expressing your opinions."
- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called for Canadian authorities to resolve the closure and reopen traffic on the bridge. "My message is simple: Reopen traffic on the bridge,"
- The Governor cited the automotive, manufacturing and agricultural industries as examples of Michigan feeling the negative impact of the bridge closure. She called it "unacceptable."
- Mayor Dilkens says the city is seeking a court injunction to remove demonstrators from blocking traffic to the Ambassador Bridge border crossing
- Dilkens says he hopes a Superior Court judge will hear the city's injunction application on Thursday
- Mayor Dilkens held a press conference on Thursday with Flavio Volpe, President, Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, Brian Kingston, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, and Rakesh Naidu, President & CEO, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce:
 - In his press conference he said that Windsor City Council met and has authorized that an injunction be sought for the Superior Court of Justice to bring about an end to this illegal occupation.
 - In legal terms, the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association will be the main applicants, with the City of Windsor and Chamber of Commerce as supportive interveners
 - Additional resources are being deployed from the Ontario Provincial Police to help bring about a negotiated solution
 - He said he is grateful to the Province of Ontario for responding rapidly to the call for support they issued yesterday

Latest on Ambassador Bridge and Blue Water Bridge:

Ambassador Bridge

- OPP has been sent to Windsor to assist with the situation, and RCMP are sending a Public Order Unit based in Ontario to assist alongside the OPP in Windsor
- No Canada-bound or US-bound traffic moving
- Several auto plants (Ford, Toyota, GM) have halted production due to shortages caused by the blockade

Windsor-Detroit Tunnel

- Companies are rerouting to Blue Water Bridge, there are delays at that POE too and truckers may not be able to complete trips on time due to mandated hours of rest
- As a result some companies with critical production goods are using the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel to transport the goods (tunnel cannot accommodate larger trucks like tractor-trailer units however)
- No traffic delays on the tunnel at this time and WPS have stationed officers at the entrance and exit of the tunnel to monitor for any blockades
- Discussion are ongoing with other trusted traders and USCPB in the Windsor-Detroit area regarding the use of the tunnel.
- The tunnel has significant size restrictions and cannot accommodate modern transport trucks. Trusted Traders are examining the use of nondescript cube vans to move parts. This can be supported by the Trusted Trader Program and SOR.

GM is seeking CBSA support to facilitate the move of Trusted Trader goods (CSA) using the Windsor Ferry and air charters into London, Hamilton, and Windsor.

- Southern Ontario Region (SOR) has indicated they are well positioned to support increased use of the ferry starting today and expand hours to 24/7 should GM and the ferry operator agree to increase ferry operating hours and ice conditions permit the use of the ferry.
- The ferry is normally reserved for oversized loads and hazardous goods, but can carry 8-10 normal transport trucks. There are no program level issues related to GM exercising this option as GM has indicated the goods will be CSA goods and the drivers will be FAST drivers.
- With respect to the use of air charters, there are no issues related to trusted trader goods arriving at Windsor and London. There are well established processes in place and SOR has indicated that it can operationally support as required.

GM has requested to bring charters into Hamilton airport.

- This requires further analysis as this would be a different kind of business for the airport. CTB will be closing the loop with GTA this afternoon to determine if this request is supportable.
- GM indicated that the first flight would be scheduled for Friday 11 Feb at approx. 2pm but they understand that CBSA has not confirmed we can support this.

Blue Water Bridge

- Canada-bound BWT is 3 hours, Highway 402 WB exits leading to Blue Water Bridge remain closed

- No updates on potential CN/VIARail track blockades – monitoring

Points to register:

He will ask about how the federal government is helping:

- You can say that we're increasing RCMP capacity at the border (RCMP are sending a Public Order Unit based in Ontario to assist alongside the OPP in Windsor)
- Working with local police to make sure they have the resources they need
- We're speaking to industry associations and our provincial counterparts to discuss immediate solutions
- In addition to more RCMP officers, tactical police troops, joint intelligence and operational teams and community liaison teams, the federal government is convening a table with relevant federal and municipal partners to further strengthen our response to this situation
 - Ontario doesn't join these meetings